Cooks Asks Closed ITT Session

Sen. Marlow W. Cook (R-Ky.) yesterday accused columnist Jack Anderson and Democratic Sens. Edward M. Kennedy and Birch Bayh of conspiring to "discredit government officials" in the ITT antitrust case "despite the absence of wrong doing of any kind."

Cook made public his letter asking Judiciary Committee Chairman James Eastland (D-Miss.) to call a closed session to "examine the nature and extent" of the alleged "improprieties."

The committee began hearings into the ITT case 10 days ago at the request of acting Attorney General Richard G. Kleindienst, who was deputy attorney general when the Justice Department settled an antitrust suit against ITT out of court July 31.

Kleindienst requested the hearings, which resume Tuesday, after Anderson alleged that the Justice Department gave ITT a favorable settlement in return for a pledge by the company of $400,000 for the 1972 Republican National Convention.

Pending the outcome of the committee hearings, the Senate has withheld a vote on Kleindienst's nomination to succeed John Mitchell, who resigned March 1 as Attorney General to run President Nixon's re-election campaign. However, Eastland has said that no new vote will be taken by the Judiciary Committee, which unanimously approved Kleindienst's nomination prior to the Anderson allegations.

Cook, a member of the Judiciary Committee, suggested in yesterday's letter that his fellow committee members, Kennedy and Bayh, had teamed up with Anderson to hit administration figures for partisan political purposes.

He specifically accused Brit Hume of Anderson's staff of making available documents and notes to Kennedy, who did not pass them on to other members of the Judiciary Committee.

Hume told United Press International that he had refused to turn over the notes to the committee Thursday because Cook "demanded" them. When the "demand" was withdrawn, Hume said, he made the notes available to anyone. He said he had made them available to Kennedy's staff prior to the hearings and would have done the same for any committee member.

Kennedy issued a statement saying, "I hope that each member of the committee has instructed his staff, as I have, to develop every relevant piece of information as I have, and that none of them will be deterred by the diversionary efforts of those who would rather not see this investigation proceed."

Eastland could not be reached for comment.

SEN. MARLOW COOK
... hits Kennedy, Bayh